CLAIMS

1. A flexible coupling for a ducting system, the coupling comprising:

a first member including a first engaging member, the first member defining a receiving portion;

a second member including a second engaging member, the second member, in use, engaging with the receiving portion such that the first and second members can be retained together by the first and second engaging surfaces to define a retaining cavity of substantially spherical curvature;

a seal arranged, in use, to seal the gap between the first and second members;

a third member retained, in use, in the retaining cavity such that it is rotatable in any of the three rotational degrees of freedom within the cavity around a point offset in the direction opposite to the insertion direction of the third member from a plane defined by the engaging surfaces of the first and second members; and

a first load bearing member positioned between the second and third members such that, in use, the load bearing member provides a load bearing surface in engagement with the surface of the second member.

2. The flexible coupling of claim 1, further comprising a second load bearing member positioned between the first and third members such that, in use, the load bearing member provides a load bearing surface in engagement with the surface of the first member.

3. The flexible coupling of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the sealing portion is made from carbon.

4. The flexible coupling of any preceding claim, wherein the engaging members are flanges.

5. The flexible coupling of claim 4, further comprising a clamp which, in use, clamps around the first and second flanges of the first and second members.

6. The flexible coupling of any preceding claim, wherein the first and third members are each integrally connected to a piece of tubing.

7. The flexible coupling of any preceding claim, wherein the first load bearing member is formed from carbon.

8. The flexible coupling of any preceding claim, wherein the third member is shaped so that it always covers the load bearing surface.